**How Do We Organize Our Mission Network?**

The way to encourage your Mission District and its congregations to be **mission driven** is as varied as the Mission Districts across the NALC. Each Mission District needs to evaluate their culture, their strengths and weaknesses, their structures, and their needs before designing a mission network approach that fits them. Below are three examples of approaches already at work within NALC mission districts.

**However your mission network is designed, it should include three C’s in it’s DNA.**

**3 C’s of a mission network –**

* **Commitment** to prayer in all needs, but specifically in the area of missions
* **Connect** people and congregations to resources and tools for missions
* **Cultivate** the soil for mission planting through communicating news of mission efforts and stories, and helping coordinate mission events to excite and engage.

**District Mission Team**

This approach works well if one or more of these characteristics describe you. Your mission district is densely populated with many congregations. You formally structured. You tend to work in teams or committees. You have a variety of mission partnerships and needs.

In this approach a traditional team is developed to be the creator and keeper of the network. A chair or co-chairs are named and a team of 5-7 people, which includes pastors and laity, come together to pray for missions, to establish connections between missions and mission partners, and to cultivate the soil for mission growth and support. This will be creating communication networks for sharing personal stories, mission needs and opportunities, training and resource sharing.

**Mission Central**

This approach works well if one or more of these characteristics describe you. Your mission district is not densely populated. You are informally structured. You may or may not tend to work in teams or committees. You may or may not have a variety of mission partnerships and needs.

This approach utilizes a single person or pair (lay person or pastor) to serve like an assistant to the Dean, specializing in mission. This person collects mission information (resources, congregational news, etc) and then shares prayer needs, mission partnership opportunities, and tools throughout the the communication networks in the Mission District.

**Mission All**

This approach works well if one or more of these characteristics describe you. Your mission district has few congregations. You are informally structured or are new. You tend to work as one large team. You may tend to focus on one area of mission partnership and need.

In this approach every congregation in the mission district takes responsibility for mission. As one body every congregation communicates and prays together, creates relationships among congregations (finds mission partners for any/all missions within the district, usually informally in a small group). All take responsibility for training and promoting a mission focus in the mission district.

**Organizing a District Mission Team**

The NALC is a Christ-centered church. Jesus reminds us at his ascension that he is with us always, even to the end of the age. We are a mission-driven church. Mission cannot be done in isolation. It is about relationship and building strategic mission networks. We are traditionally grounded, which binds us to our brothers and sisters in history and today around the world. We are congregationally focused and organized to make strong mission centers to locally serve. All this is done in community. The work is strengthened by a dedicated mission team. The harvest is plenty but the workers are few. We cannot do this alone.

Mission needs strategic mission networks. Each Mission District and congregation is unique and so too will be the shape and function of their mission networks. But, they will be united in building a mission driven culture.

**Creating A Mission District Mission Network**

**What is the purpose for creating a District Mission Team?**

(circle all that apply)

1. To get the missions office off my back and check that box at my next Deans’ meeting.
2. To gather passionate mission leaders to train and engage the congregations and individuals in our Mission District and promote being in relationship with a local mission, and NALC mission congregation, and a global mission.
3. To lay the groundwork for planting missions in our mission district.
4. To create support networks for our mission congregations.
5. To help connect congregations with missions regionally and globally.
6. To pray for the mission work of our district.
7. To establish communication networks to promote and engage missions.

**What will the team look like?**

*(see “How Do We Organize Our Mission Network?" on page 1.)*

1. District Mission Team (regular meetings, 5-7 people), covering multiple areas of interest.
2. Mission Central (no official meetings, 1-2 people), communicates mission opportunities and needs and prays for missions.
3. Mission All (no team, every congregation/leader participates), picks one area and works on the purpose as an entire mission district. ~39~

**Support needed for the team?**

**Who comes to mind?**

**Timeline for contacting and releasing the ministry.**

**Organizing a Congregational Mission Team What Mission Team(s) already exist?**

**What is the purpose of creating a Mission Team?**

(circle all that apply)

1. Pastor said to (because the Mission Office or Dean said to).
2. To cultivate a culture in the congregation excited to engage in mission locally, regionally, and globally.
3. To manage our “mission” ministries.
4. To find, support, and release people to be in mission at the church, through the church, and on their own.
5. To pray for our mission partners.
6. To communicate about and grow the relationship with our mission partners.
7. To organize support for our mission partners.
8. To find a local, NALC, and global mission partner.

**What gifts and abilities are needed to accomplish the purposes chosen?**

**Who has those gifts and abilities?**

**What should the team look like?**

1. Five- to seven-member team to be the vision-casters, training/event planners, and communicators for all things mission

2. One to two people take on one purpose at a time

3. Multiple 1-2 person teams

**What is the timeline for asking people and creating the team(s)?**

**What does the team need to do its work?**

**Closing Prayer**